

Cincinnati's Lead Operation for Safe Environments (CLOSE) Let's CLOSE the door on Lead

Cincinnati Health Department's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program was recently awarded a \$3 Million Dollar Grant from HUD (Housing and Urban Development) for Cleaning up of Lead Hazards in the City of Cincinnati.

Cincinnati Health Department was one of only 29 agencies nationally to have received the Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Grant.

CDC's Goal – Eliminate Lead Poisoning by the Year 2010

- Time Constraint - We have less than three years to align with CDC's commitment to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by the year 2010.
- Extensive Scope – 93 percent of Cincinnati's housing is pre-1978 (when lead based paint was banned for residential use).
- High Remediation Costs
- Based on the above factors, the Cincinnati Health Department, applied for the HUD grant.

Statistics

- Ohio is ranked 5th nationally and Cincinnati ranks 3rd in Ohio for the highest number of lead poisoned kids.
- 93% of housing in Cincinnati is old (pre-1978).
- The Cincinnati Health department has experience with 27 counties in the State of Ohio and the necessary skilled personnel to take on the challenge.
- Cincinnati was able to demonstrate the need for the HUD funds as well as the ability to successfully and efficiently utilize those funds for clean up of lead hazards.

Lead Poisoning linked to:

- Learning disabilities
- Behavioral problems
- Increased cost of education
- Juvenile delinquency

Current Program Activities

- Track all BLL cases between 5 to 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ for case management, outreach and education.
- Track all Blood Lead Level (BLL) cases at 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or above for case management and full risk assessment of their home & environment..
- Issuance of orders to properties with lead hazards.
- Conduct pre-prosecution hearings & prosecution of non-compliant property owners with Law Department as partners.
- HEPA Vacuum Loan Program – CHD has 12 HEPA vacuums available on loan. A DVD and video are included for instructions (\$100 deposit – returned when the vacuum is brought back in).

Lead Hazard Control Work Plan (Expanded Capability due to Grant)

- Increase blood lead screenings - focus on kids who come from low income families and have no insurance. 8400 blood screens over the 3 year period.
- Offer Certified Lead Safe Renovator training (36 courses) and Property Maintenance Courses (36 courses). \$25 for both courses.
- Expand the HEPA Vacuum Loan Program.
- Recruit 15 target neighborhood residents as lead abatement workers.
- Lead abatement of 210 units by 2010 (Enroll 126 eligible rental units; enroll 84 eligible owner-occupied units).

Lead Hazard Control Work Plan (cont.)

- Educating nurses at the College of Nursing about lead hazards & its impact on children below six years of age.
- WIC clients (*20,650 clients were seen in 2006*).
- Training nurses in the maternity wards of hospitals about lead hazards.
- Educating the Hispanic population (*60,000 people according to a recent University of Cincinnati Survey*).
- Educating new moms in hospitals about lead hazards. – passing out pacifiers and baby bibs that say, "Get your child tested at ages 1 and 2 years of age".
- Educating in schools and at day-care centers.

Program Goals

- Increase blood lead screening rates.
- Increased awareness of lead hazards.
- Mitigation and abatement of lead hazards.
- Increased use of HEPA vacuums for lead dust mitigation.
- Increased number of lead safe housing.
- Decrease in number of lead poisoned children.

Expected Results

- Creation of lead-safe housing registry.
- Increase in business opportunities.
- Increased knowledge about lead-safe home renovations.
- Increased awareness about lead poisoning and lead hazards.
- Decreased Childhood Lead Poisoning.

No more excuses, please!

- Historically, childhood lead poisoning had a reactive approach. 10 µg/dL is considered legally lead poisoned.
- Now, with Cincinnati's "Early Intervention Program" (first in the nation), the child is identified at lead levels of 5 – 9 µg/dL, parents are educated on lead hazard mitigation; cleaning supplies are delivered to families to minimize dust hazards. HEPA vacuums are loaned out with an educational video on how to use the HEPA vacuum.
- Lead Safe Renovator training and Property Maintenance courses are offered for only \$25 to home owners and landlords.

Quote by Margaret Mead

- Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.....